

10-6-2000

Concert: Awadagin Pratt

Awadagin Pratt

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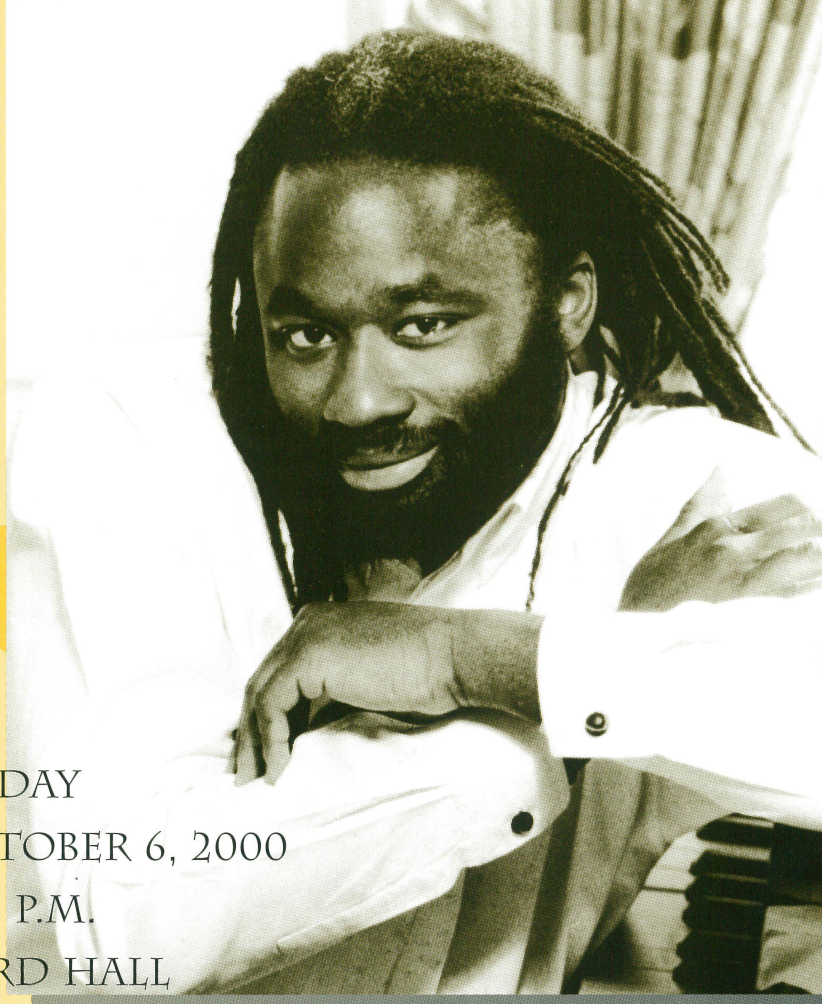
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THE RACHEL S. THALER
CONCERT PIANIST SERIES

AWADAGIN PRATT



FRIDAY

OCTOBER 6, 2000

8:15 P.M.

FORD HALL

JAMES J. WHALEN CENTER FOR MUSIC

ITHACA COLLEGE

ITHACA

Among the new generation of concert artists, pianist Awadagin Pratt is increasingly recognized as one of tomorrow's superstars. His musical insight and intensely involving performances have received tremendous acclaim from audiences and critics alike.

Born in Pittsburgh, Awadagin Pratt began studying piano at the age of 6. Three years later, having moved to Normal, Illinois, he began studying violin as well. At the age of 16, he entered the University of Illinois, where he studied piano, violin, and conducting. He subsequently enrolled at Baltimore's Peabody Conservatory of Music, becoming the first student in the school's history to receive diplomas in three performance areas.

In 1992 Pratt won the Walter W. Naumburg International Piano Competition and two years later was awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant. He has given recitals throughout the United States, in such prestigious venues as Lincoln Center in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles. His many orchestral performances include appearances with the New York Philharmonic and the New York Chamber Symphony. He has performed at the Wolftrap, Aspen, and Hollywood Bowl summer music festivals, the Mostly Mozart Festival in Tokyo, and numerous other summer festivals.

Pratt has been profiled by *Newsweek*, *People Magazine*, *USA Weekend*, *New York Newsday*, *Emerge*, and *Mirabella*. *Ebony* magazine named him one of the "50 leaders of tomorrow," and he has been featured on National Public Radio's *Performance Today* and *Weekend Edition*. He has performed on the *Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, and *Sesame Street*, appeared in a segment of *CBS News Sunday Morning*, and was one of the featured soloists on PBS's "Live from the Kennedy Center—A Salute to Slava." He has also performed twice at the White House at the invitation of President and Mrs. Clinton.

Awadagin Pratt lives in Albuquerque and in his spare time is an avid tennis player, devoted chess enthusiast, and wine connoisseur.

AWADAGIN PRATT

Pianist

The Italian Ground

Orlando Gibbons
(1583–1625)

From *The Art of the Fugue*, BWV 1080
Contrapunctus no. 1

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue in
D Minor, BWV 903

Johann Sebastian Bach

Sonata in A-flat Major, op. 110
Moderato cantabile molto espressivo
Allegro molto
Adagio ma non troppo
Fuga: Allegro ma non troppo

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770–1827)

Intermission

Sonata in B Minor
Lento assai
Allegro energico
Andante sostenuto
Allegro energico
Stretta quasi presto
Allegro moderato

Franz Liszt
(1811–86)

**Awadagin Pratt records for Angel/EML.
He appears by arrangement with Cramer/Marder Artists.**

THE RACHEL S. THALER CONCERT PIANIST SERIES was established at Ithaca College in 1991 in honor of Rachel Thaler.

A native Ithacan and talented pianist, Rachel Thaler attended the Ithaca public schools and graduated from Ithaca High School. She was awarded a scholarship to attend the Ithaca Conservatory of Music, but her father's unexpected death shortly before classes began required her to change her plan and step in to manage the family's furniture business instead.

Although she was never able to formally pursue her studies at the conservatory, Mrs. Thaler saw to it that her two sons and six grandchildren all had the opportunity to play musical instruments. Her love of music has remained strong, as has her attachment to Ithaca College. Both she and her husband, Louis K. Thaler, were devoted supporters of the Friends of Ithaca College and members of the Tower Club for many years.

In addition to her musical skill, Rachel Thaler is a talented artist. She works with needle painting, an ancient Chinese technique that uses pieces of colored thread rather than paint to create the image. Her work has been exhibited at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and in Rochester and Syracuse, and her technique has been featured in a video produced by the New York State Council on the Arts.

In endowing the concert series, Manley H. Thaler said, "My mother has always had an affinity for music. We wanted to do something in her honor during her lifetime. Because of her interest in Ithaca College and its outstanding music program, it was clear that the endowment fund should be created here."